

DECORATIVE NECKTIE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Claim of Priority

The present application is based on and a claim of priority is made under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) to a provisional patent application currently pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and having Serial No. 60/424,820 with a filing date of November 12, 2002, and to another provisional patent application also currently pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office having Serial No. 60/438,148 and a filing date of January 6, 2003, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Field of the Invention

The present invention is directed to an assembly structured to facilitate disposition of a necktie in a neat and decorative, new and fanciful, yet operative position on a wearer and may include adornment features to help accentuate the appearance of the wearer. The invention is also directed to a method of disposing a necktie in a neat and decorative, yet operative position on a wearer, utilizing the necktie assembly disclosed herein, which eliminates the need to fully tie a decorative knot in a traditional manner on a necktie.

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

2 It is common practice in western cultures for men, and
3 occasionally women, to wear a necktie to compliment most forms
4 of dress including formal, business, and often times, business
5 casual attire. Most neckties are made from a single swath of
6 material, and thus comprise a uniform pattern or appearance over
7 their entire length, and typically include at one end region a
8 relatively narrow or tapered section versus at the other end
9 region, a wider section which will overlie the tapered section
10 when the tie is disposed on a wearer in an operative position.
11 In use, the necktie is positioned in an at least partially
12 surrounding relation to the wearer's neck, and any one of a
13 number of knots may be formed in the necktie adjacent the
14 wearer's neck to maintain the necktie in an operative position
15 on the wearer. In spite of the variety of available knots, the
16 appearance of a tied necktie disposed in the operative position
17 on the wearer has remained essentially unchanged in recent
18 memory.

19 In addition, it is well known that many people have
20 difficulty accomplishing even the simplest knot in a necktie,
21 such as the common "windsor" knot. As such, a number of devices
22 have been developed which are structured to attach to one or
23 more sections of a necktie to simulate the appearance of a knot.
24 Such devices are structured to be at least partially
25 positionable over the overlying section of the necktie in an

operative position adjacent the wearer's neck, and include an outer face comprising a generally triangular shape to simulate the appearance of one of the various knots commonly used to secure a necktie in an operative position. Any well known fastening means, such a clip, clasp, and/or pin, may be utilized to secure such a device to one or more sections of the necktie, such that the device is maintained in the operative position. Although these devices effectively simulate the overall shape and appearance of the knots commonly used to secure a necktie, a problem lies in the fact that neckties come in a multitude of styles, colors, and/or patterns, and as such, a multitude of these devices would be required to permit the wearer to at least partially match the device with a necktie. It should be apparent that properly matching the device simulating the knot to the pattern of necktie desired to be worn will be difficult at best, with the likely result being an awkward appearance due to a mismatched necktie and simulated knot, which is counter to the purpose of wearing the necktie in the first place.

Another device has been developed to permit the wearer of a necktie to simulate the appearance of a knot, without completely tying a knot in the necktie. This device comprises a figure eight type of configuration and is structured to be positioned over the overlying section of the necktie in an operative position adjacent the neck of the wearer. A narrow upper rim defines an upper boundary of a simulated knot, while

1 a wide lower band defines a lower boundary of the same, thereby
2 providing the appearance of a knot in the necktie. This device
3 includes interconnecting flanges having a prong structured to be
4 secured to the portion of the necktie which is at least
5 partially tied in a knot, to retain the device in an operative
6 position on the necktie adjacent the wearer's neck.

7 Other devices have been developed to compliment and/or
8 accentuate the appearance of the necktie on the wearer. The
9 most common among these devices are tie clasps, which serve to
10 maintain the lower section or sections of the necktie in
11 position about the midsection of the wearer. Tie clasps have
12 been the mainstay accessory item for neckties, and the outer
13 face of the tie clasp can be adorned with a decorative figure,
14 emblem and/or initials. Tie clasps may also be formed of
15 precious metal and may include one or more gemstones to further
16 accentuate the wearer's appearance. A common problem with most
17 tie clasps, however, is that the typical "clasp" attachment is
18 not very secure, and when combined with their intended placement
19 near the midsection of the wearer where the clasp is subject to
20 displacement as the wearer moves about, this makes tie clasps
21 quite susceptible to loss and/or theft. This problem is
22 particularly troublesome when the tie clasp is made of precious
23 metal and/or including gemstone(s). To overcome this defect,
24 there are some tie clasps that are structured to be attached to
25 the overlying section of the tie by a pin and fastener which,

1 although providing a more secure means of attachment, results in
2 damage to the tie due to repeated piercing by the pin.

3 Thus, there remains a need in the art for an assembly which
4 facilitates the process of donning a necktie generally, as well
5 as which results in a neat and decorative, yet operative
6 position of the tie on a wearer, without requiring the skill
7 necessary to tie a decorative knot in the necktie. In addition,
8 it would be beneficial to provide an assembly which effects a
9 new and fanciful appearance to a necktie disposed in an
10 operative position on a wearer. It would also be advantageous
11 if any such assembly were structured to work with any number of
12 neckties, and further, to accentuate the appearance of the
13 wearer. If any such assembly were developed, it would
14 preferably be capable of being made of or otherwise to include
15 one or more precious metals, gemstones and/or other decorative
16 designs or features. It would further be beneficial if any such
17 assembly were capable of being disposed on a necktie in a secure
18 manner, such that the potential for loss or theft of the
19 assembly is minimized and such that the necktie is not damaged.
20 Also, it would be desirable for any such assembly to allow the
21 external appearance to be quickly and easily varied to allow the
22 assembly to accentuate neckties having a wide variety of styles,
23 colors, and/or patterns. Further, it would be beneficial to
24 provide a method for utilizing such an assembly to allow a
25 wearer to don a necktie in a neat and decorative, new and

1 fanciful, yet operative manner, which eliminates the need to
2 fully tie a decorative knot in the necktie.

3

4 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is intended to present a solution to
6 these and other needs which remain in the art, and as such, is
7 directed to a necktie assembly structured to facilitate
8 disposition of a necktie in a neat and decorative, new and
9 fanciful, yet operative position on a wearer. In particular,
10 the necktie assembly of the present invention includes a base
11 member which includes an attachment mechanism at least partially
12 interconnected thereto. The attachment mechanism of the present
13 invention is structured to engage at least a portion of a
14 necktie, thereby providing means for removable yet secure
15 attachment of the base member to at least a portion of the
16 necktie.

17 The necktie assembly also includes a face member
18 interconnected to the base member in an at least partially
19 overlying relation. The interconnection of the base member and
20 the face member at least partially defines an opening or a slot
21 between the members which is structured to receive at least the
22 overlying section of the necktie therethrough. The base member
23 and/or the face member may be constructed of any one of a number
24 of known materials including, but by no means limited to,
25 plastic, ceramic, wood, metal and/or precious metal.

1 In at least one embodiment, the face member comprises an
2 adornment feature structured to accentuate the appearance of the
3 wearer of the necktie assembly of the present invention. In one
4 embodiment, the adornment feature may include, by way of example
5 only, a decorative motif such as an emblem, a symbol, the
6 wearer's initials, etc. The decorative motif may be applied
7 onto the face member by any one of a number of well known means
8 such as, painting, etching, engraving, etc., but it is
9 understood that other means of applying the decorative motif to
10 the face member may be utilized which fall within the scope of
11 the present invention.

12 The adornment feature may also include, either alone or in
13 conjunction with the decorative motif, one or more gemstones,
14 attached to the face member. It is within the scope of the
15 present invention to utilize either genuine, synthetic, or
16 simulated gemstones as the adornment feature. It is also within
17 the scope of the invention to utilize other stones and/or types
18 of materials to create the adornment feature.

19 The present invention further comprises a method to
20 facilitate disposing a necktie in a neat and decorative, new and
21 fanciful, yet operative position on a wearer, without fully
22 tying a decorative knot in the necktie. In one embodiment, the
23 method includes forming at least a partial knot in the necktie
24 which is disposed in an at least partially surrounding relation
25 to the wearer's neck, and tightening the partial knot into an at

1 least partially operative position adjacent the wearer's neck.
2 The method of the present invention may further comprise
3 attaching a necktie assembly to an underlying section of the
4 necktie below and adjacent the partial knot. In addition, the
5 method comprises positioning an overlying section of the necktie
6 into an overlying disposition relative to the partial knot, and
7 looping a free end of the overlying section of the necktie
8 through an opening or a slot in the necktie assembly. Further,
9 the method provides for tightening the overlying section of the
10 necktie into a neat and decorative, new and fanciful, yet
11 operative position through the opening in the necktie assembly.

12 These and other objects, features and advantages of the
13 present invention will become more clear when the drawings as
14 well as the detailed description are taken into consideration.

15

16 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

17 For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present
18 invention, reference should be had to the following detailed
19 description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings
20 in which:

21 Figure 1 is a plan view of one embodiment of the necktie
22 assembly of the present invention.

23 Figure 1-A is a plan view of one alternate embodiment of
24 the necktie assembly of the present invention.

25 Figure 2 is a cross section of the embodiment of the

1 necktie assembly of Figure 1 along lines 2-2 thereof.

2 Figure 3 is a plan view of the necktie assembly of Figure
3 1 illustrating one embodiment of an attachment mechanism in a
4 closed orientation.

5 Figure 3-A is a plan view of the embodiment of Figure 3
6 illustrating the attachment mechanism in an open orientation.

7 Figure 4 is a plan view of the necktie assembly of Figure
8 1 illustrating an alternate embodiment of an attachment
9 mechanism.

10 Figure 5 is a plan view of an alternate embodiment of the
11 necktie assembly of the present invention illustrating yet
12 another alternate embodiment of an attachment mechanism in a
13 closed orientation.

14 Figure 5-A is a plan view of the embodiment of Figure 5
15 illustrating the attachment mechanism in an open orientation.

16 Figure 6 is a partial rear elevation of the embodiment of
17 Figure 5 illustrating the attachment mechanism in a closed
18 orientation.

19 Figure 7 is a front elevation of the embodiment of Figure
20 1 illustrating a decorative motif.

21 Figure 8 is a front elevation of the embodiment of Figure
22 1-A illustrating gemstones.

23 Figure 9 is an exploded front elevation of the embodiment
24 of Figure 1 illustrating a plurality of auxiliary face plates.

25 Figure 10 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the

1 necktie assembly of the present invention in secure yet
2 removable attachment to an underlying section of a necktie.

3 Figure 11 is a partial cross sectional view of the
4 embodiment of the necktie assembly of Figure 10 along lines 11-
5 11 thereof, illustrating one embodiment of secure yet removable
6 attachment of the necktie assembly to the underlying section of
7 the necktie.

8 Figure 12 is a perspective view of the necktie assembly of
9 Figure 10 in an operative position relative to a necktie.

10 Figure 13 is a plan view of one preferred embodiment of the
11 necktie assembly of the present invention.

12 Figure 13A is a perspective view of the embodiment of
13 Figure 13.

14 Figure 13B is a partially exploded perspective view of the
15 embodiment of Figure 13.

16 Figure 13C is the perspective view of the embodiment of
17 Figure 13 illustrating components of the assembly in phantom
18 lines.

19 Figure 14 is a partially exploded plan view of the
20 embodiment of Figure 13.

21 Figure 14A is a partial side view of the necktie assembly
22 of Figure 14 taken along lines A-A thereof illustrating one
23 embodiment of a hinge mechanism having a hinge pin.

24 Figure 14B is a partial rear elevation of the face member
25 of the embodiment of Figure 14 along lines B-B thereof

1 illustrating one embodiment of a groove element disposed on the
2 face member.

3 Figure 14C is a partial front elevation of the base member
4 of Figure 14 along lines C-C thereof illustrating one embodiment
5 of a tongue element disposed on the base member.

6 Figure 15 is a plan view of one other preferred embodiment
7 of the present invention illustrating a biasing element in an
8 uncompressed configuration.

9 Figure 15A is a partial front elevation of the base member
10 of the embodiment of Figure 15 illustrating the biasing element
11 in the uncompressed configuration.

12 Figure 16 is a plan view of the preferred embodiment of
13 Figure 15 illustrating a biasing element in a compressed
14 configuration.

15 Figure 16A is a partial front elevation of the base member
16 of the embodiment of Figure 16 illustrating the biasing element
17 in the compressed configuration.

18 Figure 17 is a plan view of another preferred embodiment of
19 a necktie assembly of the present invention.

20 Figure 17A is a perspective view of the embodiment of
21 Figure 17.

22 Figure 17B is a partially exploded perspective view of the
23 embodiment of Figure 17.

24 Figure 17C is the perspective view of the embodiment of
25 Figure 17 illustrating components of the assembly in phantom

1 lines.

2 Figure 18 is a perspective view of one preferred embodiment
3 of a biasing element of the present invention.

4 Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the
5 several views of the drawings.
6

7 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

8 The present invention is directed to a necktie assembly,
9 generally shown as 10, which is structured to facilitate the
10 donning of a necktie, but also, to dispose the necktie in a neat
11 and decorative, new and fanciful, yet operative position on a
12 wearer. The present invention further encompasses a method for
13 utilizing such a necktie assembly 10 which permits a wearer to
14 don a necktie in a neat and decorative, new and fanciful, yet
15 operative manner and, also important, the method eliminates the
16 need to fully tie a decorative knot in the necktie, a procedure
17 which many people find difficult and frustrating.

18 With initial reference to Figures 1 and 2, the necktie
19 assembly 10 of the present invention comprises a base member 12
20 having a front or outer surface 13 and a rear or inner surface
21 14. In at least one embodiment, the outer surface 13 comprises
22 a convex configuration, as illustrated in Figures 1 through 5,
23 and 11, a feature which is discussed in greater detail below.
24 In one preferred embodiment, however, the entire base member 12
25 may comprise either a substantially flat configuration, as

1 illustrated in Figures 13, 14, and 17, or in another preferred
2 embodiment, the base member 12 may comprise a concave
3 configuration, as illustrated in Figures 15 and 16.

4 In addition, the necktie assembly 10 comprises a face
5 member 16 interconnected with the base member 12 and disposed in
6 an at least partially overlying relation thereto. The base
7 member 12 and the face member 16 may comprise any one of a
8 number of materials of construction including, by way of example
9 only, plastic, ceramic, stone, wood, glass, metal, precious
10 metal and/or metal alloy or other composite material. In at
11 least one embodiment, the base member 12 and the face member 16
12 may be securely interconnected to one another, such as is
13 illustrated in Figures 1, 1-A, 3, 3-A, and 4. In at least one
14 other embodiment, the base member 12 and the face member 16 are
15 movably interconnected to one another, such as is illustrated in
16 the embodiment of Figures 5 and 5-A, and in the preferred
17 embodiments illustrated in Figures 13 through 17.

18 Regardless of the specific type of interconnection between
19 the base member 12 and the face member 16, they are structured
20 to at least partially define an opening or slot 18 between one
21 another (such as a channel, slot, notch, groove, or other
22 opening), the opening 18 being further defined by one or more
23 intersection between the base member 12 and the face member 16,
24 as shown throughout the figures. The opening 18 is structured
25 to receive at least a portion of the necktie therethrough, as

1 will become more clear from the discussion herein, and which
2 may, for example, be an overlying section of the necktie.

3 In at least one embodiment, illustrated primarily in
4 Figures 1 through 5, and 11, the convex configuration of the
5 outer surface 13 of the base member 12 acts to orient the
6 portion of the necktie disposed through the opening 18, such as
7 the overlying section of the necktie, in a convex configuration,
8 which imparts a neat and decorative appearance to the necktie
9 when disposed in an operative position with the necktie assembly
10.

11 With reference now to Figures 3 through 6, the necktie
12 assembly 10 of the present invention may additionally comprise
13 an attachment mechanism, generally as shown at 20. In at least
14 one embodiment, the attachment mechanism 20 is at least
15 partially interconnected to the rear or inner surface 14 of the
16 base member 12, as illustrated in Figures 3 through 6. The
17 attachment mechanism 20 is structured to engage a portion of the
18 necktie, and in at least one embodiment, the attachment
19 mechanism 20 is structured to removably secure the base member
20 12 to at least a portion of an underlying section of the
21 necktie, such that the necktie assembly 10 is not free to slip
22 down and off of the necktie.

23 In one embodiment, the attachment mechanism 20 comprises a
24 clip 24 secured to the inner surface 14 of the base member 12,
25 as shown in Figures 3 and 3-A. The clip 24 is selectively

1 disposable between a closed orientation which, as shown in
2 Figure 3, will permit the attachment mechanism 20 to securely
3 attach to at least a portion of the underlying section of the
4 necktie. In addition, the clip 24 may be disposed into an open
5 orientation which, as shown in Figure 3-A, facilitates
6 positioning the attachment mechanism 20 around at least the
7 portion of the underlying section of the necktie.

8 An alternate embodiment of the necktie assembly 10 of the
9 present invention is illustrated in Figure 4. In particular,
10 the attachment mechanism 20 of this illustrated embodiment
11 comprises a post 22 secured to the inner surface 14 of the base
12 member 12. Additionally, in this embodiment, the attachment
13 mechanism 20 further comprises a fastener 23 which is structured
14 to engage the post 22 in a securing relation, as depicted by the
15 phantom lines in Figure 4.

16 Figures 5 and 5-A illustrate yet another embodiment of an
17 attachment mechanism 20 of the necktie assembly 10 of the
18 present invention. Specifically, the attachment mechanism 20
19 illustrated in Figures 5 and 5-A comprises a clasp 26. The
20 clasp 26 further comprises a male portion 28 which is structured
21 to securely yet removably engage a female portion 27. As
22 illustrated, the female portion 27 of the clasp may comprise an
23 aperture through a portion of the base member 12, and the male
24 portion 28 may comprise a pin or other protrusion extending
25 outwardly from the underside of the face member 16. It is also

envisioned that the male portion 28 may extend outward from the base member 12 while the female portion 27 comprises an aperture in the face member 16.

Also, as shown in the embodiment of Figures 5 and 5-A, both the outer surface 13 and the inner surface 14 of the base member 12 of may comprise a convex configuration wherein the opening 18 is structured to receive both the overlying and underlying sections of the necktie. Further, as illustrated in Figure 5-A, the base member 12 and the face member 16 of the necktie assembly 10 may be movably interconnected to one another.

Movable interconnection between the base member 12 and the face member 16 is further illustrated in the embodiment of Figures 13 and 14. Specifically, in this preferred embodiment of the necktie assembly 10, the base member 12 is movably interconnected to the face member 16 via a hinge assembly 17. As further illustrated in Figure 14A, the hinge assembly 17 may comprise a hinge pin 17' structured to permit the base member 12 and the face member 16 to move back and forth in an arcuate path relative to one another about the hinge pin 17' of the hinge assembly 17. Moveable interconnection is also illustrated in the embodiments of Figures 15 through 17.

Also as illustrated in Figures 13 and 14, this preferred embodiment of the necktie assembly 10 further comprises a tongue and groove type fastener 19 structured to further facilitate the movable interconnection of the base member 12 and the face

1 member 16. The tongue and groove fastener 19 comprises tongue
2 element 19' and groove element 19" structured such that the
3 tongue element 19' is firmly yet removably positionable within
4 the groove element 19", thereby providing a friction fit to
5 further interconnect the base member 12 and the face member 16.

6 As illustrated in the embodiments of Figures 13, 14, and
7 17, the tongue element 19" is disposed on the base member 12 and
8 the groove element is disposed on the face member 16, however,
9 as illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 15 and 16, the tongue
10 element 19' may be disposed on the face member 16 while the
11 groove element is disposed on the base member 12.

12 Figures 15 through 17 also illustrate a preferred
13 embodiment of the attachment mechanism 20, specifically, an
14 attachment mechanism 20 comprising a biasing element 29. The
15 biasing element 29 may comprise a thin piece of metal or other
16 material exhibiting elastic properties such that the biasing
17 element 29 may be deformed into a compressed configuration under
18 sufficient force, such as illustrated in Figures 16 and 16A, but
19 also having a memory so that the biasing element 29 will return
20 to its initial, substantially uncompressed configuration upon
21 removal of said force, as is illustrated in Figures 15 and 15A.
22 As illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 18, the biasing
23 element 29 comprises a pair of guide members 29', however,
24 alternate embodiments of the biasing element 29 may have only
25 one guide member 29', or it may include a plurality of guide

members 29'. Each of the guide members 29' are structured to be movably positionable within a different one of each of a plurality of guide tracks 29", as illustrated in the figures, to permit disposition of the biasing element 29 between its compressed configuration and its uncompressed configuration.

In particular, the biasing element 29 of this preferred embodiment is structured such that the force required to position a portion of the necktie through the opening 18 is sufficient to compress the biasing element 29 thereby allowing passage of the portion of the necktie through the opening 18. When the portion of the necktie is in position through the opening 18, the biasing element 29 is structured to return towards its uncompressed configuration with sufficient force to engage the portion of the necktie and force it into contact with the back of the face member 16, thereby securely attaching the necktie assembly 10 to at least a portion of the necktie. Specifically, in one preferred embodiment, the biasing element 29 is structured to engage a portion of an overlying section of the necktie and force it into contact with the back of the face member 16, thereby securely attaching the necktie assembly 10 such that the assembly 10 is not free to slip down and off of the necktie. It will be appreciated that the biasing element 29 can securely attach the necktie assembly 10 to the necktie in such a manner that the necktie will not be damaged, even after repeated usage. In the aforementioned preferred embodiment, the

1 biasing element 29 is structured to engage at least a portion of
2 the overlying section of the necktie, however, it is also
3 understood that the biasing element 29 may engage a portion of
4 an underlying section of the necktie, thereby forcing an
5 adjacent portion of the overlying section of the necktie into
6 contact with the back of the face member 16.

7 Similar to the embodiment of the necktie assembly 10
8 comprising a base member 12 having a convex configuration, the
9 biasing element 29 of this preferred embodiment acts to orient
10 the portion of the necktie disposed through the opening 18, such
11 as the overlying section, in an outwardly extending or convex
12 configuration, which, once again, imparts a neat and decorative
13 appearance to the necktie when disposed in an operative position
14 with the necktie assembly 10. Additionally, however, positioning
15 of the necktie assembly 10 of the present invention onto a
16 necktie in an operative position on a wearer, imparts a new and
17 fanciful appearance to the necktie heretofore believed to be
18 unknown in the art.

19 In one further embodiment, the attachment mechanism 20 may
20 comprise one of the previously described embodiments, structured
21 to securely attach the necktie assembly 10 to at least a portion
22 of the underlying section of the necktie, in combination with
23 the biasing element 29 of the preferred embodiment, structured
24 to engage a portion of the overlying section of the necktie,
25 thereby providing further securement of the necktie assembly 10

1 to the necktie, such that the necktie assembly 10 is not free to
2 slip down and off of the necktie, once disposed in an operative
3 position.

4 In addition to the various embodiments of the attachment
5 mechanism 20 specifically disclosed herein, it is understood
6 that numerous other embodiments and/or configurations of the
7 attachment mechanism 20 may be utilized with the present
8 invention, including, but not limited to, a pin, a chain, etc.,
9 and it is well within the scope and intent of the present
10 invention to encompass these additional embodiments and/or
11 configurations of the attachment mechanism 20.

12 With reference now to Figures 7 and 8, in at least one
13 embodiment, the necktie assembly 10 of the present invention
14 further comprises an adornment feature, generally shown as 30.
15 In particular, the face member 16 may comprise an adornment
16 feature 30 structured to accentuate the appearance of the wearer
17 of the necktie assembly 10 of the present invention. In one
18 embodiment, the adornment feature 30 may include, by way of
19 example only, a decorative motif 32 such as an emblem, a symbol,
20 the wearer's initials, etc. The decorative motif 32 may be
21 applied onto the face member 16 by any one of a number of well
22 known means such as, by way of example only, painting, etching,
23 engraving, filigree, stamping, etc. It is understood, however,
24 that additional means exist to apply the decorative motif 32,
25 and it is deemed within the scope of the present invention to

1 utilize one or more additional procedures to apply the
2 decorative motif 32 to the face member 16 of the necktie
3 assembly 10 of the present invention.

4 As shown in Figure 8, the adornment feature 30 may also
5 comprise one or more gemstones 34 attached to the face member
6 16. The gemstone(s) 34 may be attached to the face member 16
7 either alone or in conjunction with the decorative motif 32. It
8 is within the scope of the present invention to utilize either
9 a genuine, synthetic, or simulated gemstone(s) 34 as the
10 adornment feature 30 for the necktie assembly 10 of the present
11 invention. It is further envisioned that the necktie assembly
12 10 of the present invention may comprise one or more additional
13 adornment features not specifically disclosed herein which are,
14 however, still deemed to be within the scope of the present
15 invention.

16 It is pointed out that the combination of the position of
17 the inventive necktie assembly 10, when disposed in an operative
18 position adjacent the neck of the wearer, and the resulting look
19 which it offers to the necktie, offers a new and fanciful
20 appearance option to the wearer which, it is believed, has never
21 been known previously. In addition, the combination of the
22 necktie assembly's 10 position with the fact that it can be
23 securely yet removably attached to a necktie allows a person to
24 accessorize his/her wardrobe and accentuate his/her appearance
25 with little to no concern for loss or theft of the necktie

assembly 10. Further, the necktie assembly 10 will in several embodiments cause no damage to the necktie itself. As such, the present invention allows the wearer to don an elegant and expensive necktie and also readily allows the necktie assembly 10 to be constructed from a precious metal such as gold, silver, platinum, etc., and/or which may further include one or more gemstones 34 such as diamonds, rubies, emeralds, etc., while maintaining peace of mind that the necktie assembly 10 will not be lost or stolen during use.

With reference now to Figure 9, another embodiment of the necktie assembly 10 is illustrated. In this embodiment, the necktie assembly 10 is structured to allow for some modification of the face member 16 to allow the wearer the option of quickly and easily alternating the external appearance of the necktie assembly 10. For example, and as illustrated in Figure 9, the necktie assembly 10 of the present invention may comprise a plurality of auxiliary face plates 36, where one auxiliary face plate 36 may comprise a plain finish, while another auxiliary face plate 36 may comprise a decorative motif 32, and yet another auxiliary face plate 36 may comprise one or more gemstones 34. In the illustrated embodiment, the auxiliary face plate 36 of the present invention is structured to be securely yet removably attached to the face member 16 by any one of a number of removable attachment devices.

With reference now to Figure 10, the present invention is

1 also understood to comprise a method to facilitate donning a
2 necktie generally, as well as in a neat and decorative, new and
3 fanciful, yet operative position on a wearer with the inventive
4 necktie assembly 10. In particular, in at least one embodiment,
5 the method includes forming at least a partial knot in the
6 necktie which is disposed in an at least partially surrounding
7 relation to the wearer's neck, and tightening the partial knot
8 into an operative position adjacent the wearer's neck, as
9 illustrated in Figure 10. The method of the present invention
10 further comprises attaching a necktie assembly 10 to a portion
11 of the necktie, for example, a portion of an underlying section
12 of the necktie, below and adjacent the partial knot, and
13 preferably, removably yet securely attaching the necktie
14 assembly 10 to the portion of the necktie. Figure 11
15 illustrates a partial cross sectional view of the necktie
16 assembly 10, as in Figure 4, removably yet securely attached to
17 an underlying section of the necktie.

18 In addition, the method comprises positioning an overlying
19 section of the necktie into an overlying disposition relative to
20 the partial knot, and looping a free end of the overlying
21 section of the necktie through an opening or slot 18 in the
22 necktie assembly 10. Further, the method provides for
23 tightening the overlying section of the necktie into a neat and
24 operative position through the opening 18 in the necktie
25 assembly 10, as illustrated in Figure 12.

1 Accordingly, a new, useful and unobvious necktie assembly
2 10 and method for utilizing the same has been described herein
3 which allows one to wear a necktie in an operative position
4 having a neat and decorative, new and fanciful appearance, but
5 which does not require more than an average level of skill to
6 partially form a knot in the necktie, as the method eliminates
7 the need to fully tie a decorative knot in the necktie. In
8 addition, the present invention is structured such that it may
9 be utilized with any number of neckties. Further, at least one
10 embodiment has been described which allows the external
11 appearance to be quickly and easily varied so as to meet the
12 design preferences of various users, and also, to permit the
13 necktie assembly 10 to accentuate neckties having a wide variety
14 of styles, colors, and/or patterns with a new and fanciful
15 appearance.

16 Since many modifications, variations and changes in detail
17 can be made to the described preferred embodiment of the
18 invention, it is intended that all matters in the foregoing
19 description and shown in the accompanying drawings be
20 interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. For
21 example, while it is contemplated that the assembly and method
22 of the present invention eliminate the need to fully tie a
23 decorative knot in the necktie, some variations in the way
24 individuals will actually use or follow the invention are
25 expected, and as such, fully tied knots and other types of knots

1 made to the necktie should be deemed to fall within the spirit
2 and scope of the invention. Thus, the scope of the invention
3 should be determined by the appended claims and their legal
4 equivalents.

5 Now that the invention has been described,